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29 December 1964

SUBJECT: Eerik HEINE

1. Eerik HEINE initially came to our attention on 30 November 1956 when he appeared at the American Embassy in Bonn, Germany, to volunteer information about himself, about "active partisan activities" in Estonia, about organized anti-Soviet Russian resistance organizations in Soviet concentration camps the leader of which had "commissioned" him to contact American authorities upon his arrival in the West, and about his own anti-Soviet activities as a partisan in the Estonian underground. He reported that he had just then arrived in West Germany from the Soviet Union in a contingent of repatriated German PWs after he had succeeded, after deceiving the Soviet secret police, in passing himself off as a German.

2. Though certain elements of his story were of some interest, it was concluded that HEINE's story smacked too much of the classic Soviet intelligence provocation operations which had repeatedly been run into the West from the Soviet Union.

3. A partial debriefing was subsequently accomplished of HEINE. Similarly, other foreign governments were able to accomplish partial debriefings of him. The entire story which he has provided is generally jumbled, incomplete, and suspect. The summary provided below is an attempt at a reconstruction of the various versions which HEINE has provided to various official sources and which he has volunteered in his various contacts with Estonian emigres.

4. The following summarizes the life story of Eerik HEINE:

a. HEINE was born in Tartu, Estonia, on 9 September 1919 to well-to-do bourgeois parents (they owned a small piano factory). HEINE was a poor student, unruly, and forced to change schools for disciplinary reasons. He excelled in nothing and nothing, neither studies nor sports, seemed to interest him. (NOTE: A "bench-mate" of Eerik HEINE at the Treffner Gymnasium in Tartu is one Julius KANGUR, a resident of Lakewood, New Jersey, who is the past president of the Estonian National Council of the USA.)

b. In June 1940, as a participant of a group of Estonians who resisted the Soviet occupation of Estonia, HEINE and several colleagues reportedly removed the Soviet flag from the Tartu town hall and substituted the Estonian national flag therefor. Though HEINE succeeded in escaping, his parents were arrested and

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detained as hostages by the Soviet secret police. (NOTE: According to one version, HEINE was still in high school at the time of this incident. According to another version, he was already a college student at the time.)

c. On 28 August 1940 HEINE voluntarily surrendered to the NKVD and was promptly arrested on charges of having engaged in anti-State revolutionary activities. Though the HEINE family is of pure Estonian descent, HEINE indicated that his parents were somehow able to present evidence that they were of German extraction and, as a result, were permitted to leave Estonia for Germany in late 1940 under the Ribbentrop pact. After HEINE had been under constant interrogation for nine months, the NKVD reportedly saw fit to release HEINE in April 1941 and to permit him to proceed to Germany. (NOTE: There are a number of unusual items in this regard. First, the Soviet occupational authorities did not release "unreliable", i.e. anti-Soviet, elements to proceed to Germany even if they could muster some proof of German extraction. HEINE's parents unquestionably fell into this category of hostile anti-Soviet personalities who, instead of being permitted to proceed to Germany, would have been shipped off to the interior of the USSR with thousands of other similarly inclined anti-Soviet Estonians--unless it served the interests of the NKVD to permit them to proceed to Germany. Next, it is most unusual that the NKVD would have released from prison such an enemy of the Soviet state as Ferik HEINE was, and he claims to have been, unless this again served the interests of the NKVD, as the Soviets did not wish to have such individuals engage in anti-Soviet activities from Germany which is exactly what HEINE did upon his arrival in Germany. On the basis of our knowledge of Soviet intelligence modus operandi, there is strong basis to conclude that Ferik HEINE was recruited as a Soviet agent during the period that he was in the hands of the NKVD for 9 months. It would then therefore be logical for the NKVD to have released him in exchange for his agreement to collaborate with the Soviets while he was in Germany. In all probability, it is with this in mind that the NKVD authorized his parents to proceed to Germany as, once they arrived in Germany, they reportedly made various attempts at gaining the release of their son to have him join them in Germany. It is an established fact that, at that time--in 1940-41, the Soviets were hastily dispatching all forms of agents to Germany under all available circumstances in anticipation of the outbreak of Russo-German hostilities. HEINE, who had knowledge of Russian, German, and Estonian, would have met the NKVD requirements in this respect.)

d. Shortly after his arrival in Germany, HEINE did precisely what the Soviets feared such repatriates would do, to wit, he joined an Estonian unit of the German army. This Estonian unit, "Ostland", was dispatched to the Ukraine where HEINE, as a member of the unit, worked in suppressing anti-Soviet (and anti-German) Ukrainian partisans.

e. According to one version, in February 1942 HEINE

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was reassigned to Estonia by the Germans. According to another version, the Germans released him in order to permit him to join the Estonian government which had been organized in Estonia under German auspices. He was permitted to return to Estonia on condition that he serve in the German controlled Estonian political police, although he admits that he had no background or experience for this. In Estonia he worked with the German SD, interrogating Estonians who were engaged in anti-Soviet (and anti-German) activities. Sometime thereafter he was permitted to join the Estonian military unit "Narva" where he received his basic military training. According to one version, he was appointed Lieutenant and assigned to combat against the Soviets in the Ukraine. According to another version, he was selected to proceed to Bad Tolz, Germany, where he was commissioned after graduating from an officer's school. According to the latter version, he never fought in the Ukraine but rather engaged in combat in the Narva area of Estonia. (NOTE: There are various individuals in the USA, among others one Vello PODRANG of NYC, who can attest to the fact that HEINE did not go through the Estonian officer's school in Bad Tolz, that HEINE knows none of the graduates of Bad Tolz, and that HEINE appears on none of the photographs of Estonian officers graduating from Bad Tolz.)

f. In 1944 HEINE was captured by the Soviet armies. He has provided a variety of versions as to how this occurred. According to one version, he was wounded while fighting behind Soviet lines and was then taken PW. According to another version, he lost consciousness as a result of the effect of a bomb explosion near a bridge. Yet according to a third version, he was injured only sometime after he had been taken prisoner by the Soviet Army. (NOTE: The probable reason for these discrepancies is the fact that, as an Estonian who was serving in a German SS Waffen unit, he would have been executed by the Soviets on the spot had he been captured normally. Hence, he has equivocated in this respect in order to explain how it is that, though he was captured by the Soviets while dressed in a German SS officer's uniform, he succeeded in staying alive. There are yet other versions which HEINE has offered as to the circumstances under which he was captured. One of these is that, upon his capture, he immediately identified himself to the Soviets as an Estonian, claiming that he had been compelled to serve in the German SS Waffen unit. (NOTE: There are on record instances where Soviet recruited agents who had penetrated the German armies returned to the Soviet side by using the pretext of losing consciousness or of having been unjured. This might well apply to HEINE because of his contradictory accounts concerning his capture.)

g. Whichever version one elects to accept, HEINE admits that ultimately the Soviet secret police in Tartu identified him to be an Estonian and, as a result, declared him to be a traitor. According to one version, he was in a Tartu prison from 1944 through 1946. According to another version, despite the fact

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that the NKVD identified him to be a traitor, he was, "through luck", treated as a normal POW and sent to a POW camp near Moscow. According to this latter version, the NKVD identified him as a "traitor and an enemy of the fatherland" at the POW camp as a result of which he was isolated from regular POW's and shipped to another special camp for "anti-State enemies". In March 1945 HEINE alleges, "through luck", to have escaped from the special camp; he then made his way to Estonia. Enroute, while in Leningrad, HEINE was arrested again but reportedly succeeded in hiding his identity and in passing himself off as an ordinary Estonian soldier as a result of which he was ultimately repatriated to Estonia. Sometime in 1946, while working on the Tallinn harbor, HEINE's true identity was reportedly established by the Soviet NKVD authorities but, he would have us believe, that no action was then taken against him. However, fearing reprisals sooner or later, in 1946 he decided to "go underground" (although as another version would have it, he went "underground" only after he escaped from an NKVD prison).

h. HEINE remained in the Estonian "underground", as a partisan, from 1946 through 1950. His accounts of his various exploits are too numerous to enumerate. However, he claims to have recruited a girl-friend, who worked as a telephone operator for the Soviet secret police who was ostensibly able to notify him of impending NKVD attacks against the partisans and through whom he maintained contact (using clandestine means of commo) with the outside world in Estonia while a partisan in the underground. HEINE claims to be in contact with this girl to the present day using a system of codes, ciphers, and secret writing. Further, he claims that, as a partisan, he succeeded in masquerading as a Soviet secret police officer (as an Estonian singer according to another version), with all the necessary legal documentation, in which capacity he then travelled, via Moscow and other major cities, to Siberia in order to liberate some 7 Estonians from a Soviet concentration camp. He claims that he "deceived" all concerned despite the fact that he was repeatedly stopped and checked. (NOTE: The story of the girl friend is probably true except that she was, in all probability, his commo channel to the NKVD. The story of his escapade to Siberia to liberate Estonians is beyond belief and another of these items which he attributes to "luck".)

i. HEINE claims that he was captured by the Soviet secret police in 1950 "through personal carelessness" when he decided to visit a folks singing festival in Tallinn. (NOTE: It is a known fact that by 1950 the Soviets had succeeded in wiping out most of the remnants of the underground and therefore HEINE's utility to them in the underground had diminished. Hence, this "arrest" may have been used as a means of "surfacing" him for reassignment to other duties and functions in behalf of the Soviet secret police.) According to one version, HEINE, because of his anti-State activities as a partisan and as a German collaborator, was tried as a Soviet citizen under Paragraphs 58/4 and 182 of the Soviet Criminal Code, convicted and sentenced to death:

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allegedly this was ultimately commuted to 25 years of hard labor. According to a second version, HEINE was sentenced, not as a Soviet but rather as a German, though under the same paragraphs of the Soviet Criminal Code, to ten years of forced labor. (NOTE: The reason for this contradiction is very obvious. In the eyes of the Soviet government, HEINE was a Soviet citizen--and still is-- who was subject to the full extent of the appropriate Soviet Criminal Code paragraphs which he had violated: for his specific activities he would have had to be tried and sentenced as his first version indicates.. However, inasmuch as he ultimately motivates his arrival in the West under the guise of a "German", his second version has to open the door for an avenue to the West which, in the eyes of the people in the West, would have permitted him to leave the Soviet Union.)

j. HEINE claims that sometime in 1948 he was also arrested by the NKVD but that, "with luck", he again succeeded in escaping from the NKVD. The arrest had taken place after he walked into the offices of the NKVD, ostensibly to surrender himself, but then changed his mind after the hostile interrogation accorded him. Though searched and detained, he was able to make his "escape" allegedly because the NKVD overlooked the pistol which he had hidden on hi dy.

k. As a partisan in the Estonian underground, HEINE allegedly organized various underground elements, all of which then continued to function independent of him. (NOTE: A classic Soviet provocation operation, repeated time and again after WW II to flush out members of the underground, was to inject its own agent into the underground who would then wholeheartedly play the role of a member of the underground, this in order to identify its members, to establish control over the underground's activities, and ultimately to set up circumstances which led to the neutralization of the members and ultimately of the entire underground. Significantly, HEINE admits that his arrest occurred after virtually every one else from the underground had been arrested, detained, or killed. This is entirely in consonance with Soviet secret police modus operandi.)

l. HEINE was imprisoned in various Soviet concentration camps from 1950 through his release in 1956. He was repeatedly transferred from one camp to another. He claims that these transfers occurred as a result of his attempts to escape, attempts to organize hunger strikes, because of his violent anti-Soviet views, etc. Despite this, during most of the period while in the concentration camps, HEINE occupied relatively decent positions of confidence and trust, e.g. working in a dispensary. (NOTE: The Soviet secret police, as a general rule, reserves such favored positions for its secret informants.)

m. Also, while imprisoned in the various concentration camps, HEINE allegedly was in close touch with developments in the Estonian underground by virtue of his association with various

Estonians who were being sent to these camps. Further, he was reportedly sought out by a prisoner, a person of Great Russian descent, who admitted to HEINE about the existence of a Russian underground movement, consisting of some 70,000 members. This Great Russian POW, allegedly foreseeing the fact that HEINE would ultimately be repatriated, then instructed HEINE to contact Western intelligence services, preferably the Americans or the Germans, in order to obtain Western support for this underground movement.

n. For sometime prior to his repatriation, HEINE states that he was under constant Soviet secret police interrogation (according to one version lasting up to 7-8 months). However, this interrogation was abruptly discontinued and, despite the fact that he was known to be a Soviet citizen and an Estonian national, was mistaken by the Soviet secret police for a German POW as a result of which in late 1956 he was permitted to proceed to West Germany under the guise of a German POW. (NOTE: The 7-8 month interrogation would, in all probability, have been the period during which HEINE was under preparation for dispatch abroad as a Soviet secret agent. Noteworthy is the fact that HEINE also spent considerable time in Moscow just prior to his repatriation to West Germany.)

5. Attached herewith are a variety of documents which relate to the HEINE case, which provide some background on the HEINE-RAUS conflict, which provide a brief transcript of a tape recording made by HEINE concerning his background, and which reflect on HEINE's various attempts to acquire legal assistance to press his case against RAUS.

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